

A Healthy Trend

For nearly two decades farmers in Missouri have been reducing soil erosion on cropland.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service conducts a National Resources Inventory every five years to evaluate the conditions and trends of the nation's soil and water. Here are some highlights of the last inventory, conducted in 1997.

In 1997, an average of 5.6 tons of soil eroded from each acre of Missouri's cultivated cropland. This is the sixth highest rate in the country. But, Missouri's erosion rate has dropped more than any other state since 1982, when its 10.9 tons per acre rate was the second highest in the nation.

This progress is the result of the action taken by Missouri farmers to put soil conservation measures

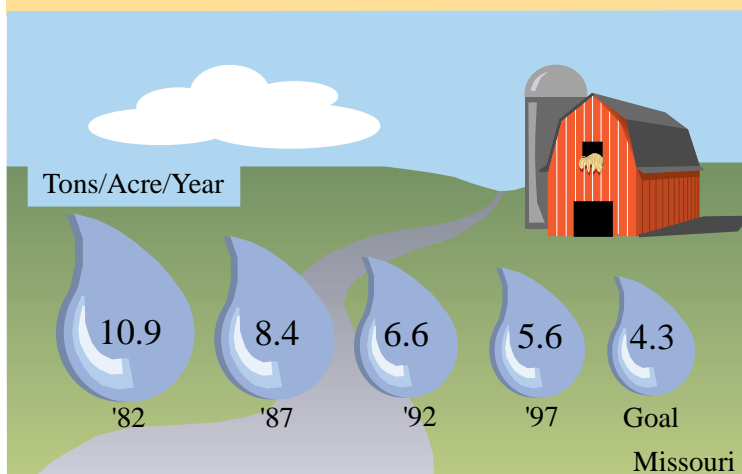
to work on their land. A combination of local, state and federal programs provided assistance to farmers.

The NRCS helps farmers develop their soil conservation plans and provides technical assistance in cooperation with local soil and water conservation districts and other partners.

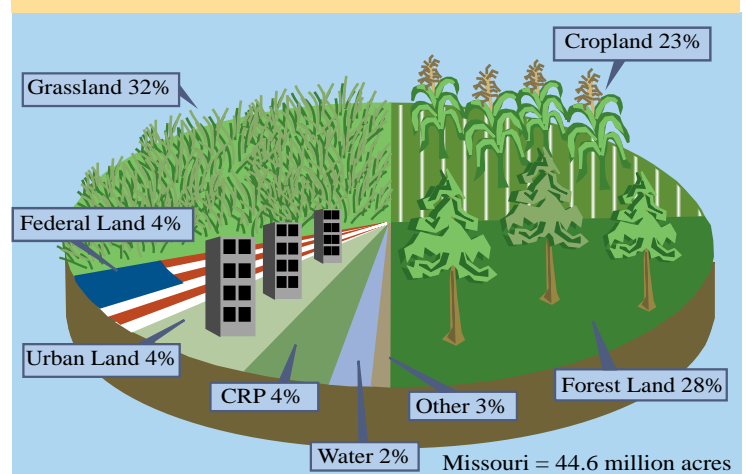
Missouri, through its Parks and Soils sales tax, provided funding to help install many conservation systems.

While Missouri continues to make progress in reducing the rate of soil erosion, nearly 40 percent of the state's cultivated cropland is still eroding above acceptable rates.

Soil Erosion On Cultivated Cropland



1997 Land Use in Missouri



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